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has given opportunity for "professional" anti-single tax workers, has it not also created "professional" pro-single tax workers?

One little error not very important may be mentioned. The author accepts, with some apparent doubt, the claim of the single taxers working under the Fels Fund that the "exemption of improvements in irrigation districts in California" was a victory for the single tax. The fact is that this is nothing more (not "little more") than an application of the principle of special assessments.

Under the caption "single tax tactics" is an excellent account of the subterfuges, such as the "home rule movement" behind which some single taxers have consented to stand. This chapter also contains an account of the Fairhope Colony.

The chapter on the single tax and the taxation of land values (ch. 13) is worthy of special notice because of the careful and accurate distinctions which are made between different forms of special taxes on land and also for the outline of the differences between single taxers themselves.

No attempt is made to criticise the doctrines. But a good summary is given of the objections that have been raised by economists. So the reader is put in position to judge for himself. After all can more be done? It is well pointed out that the doctrine of Henry George rests on an assumed "natural law" and that if this natural law does not seem as "natural" to you or to me as it did to Henry George there is nothing more to be said. It is interesting to note that the author has not thought it necessary to present at any length the arguments as to the sufficiency of revenues, nor to discuss at length the question as to whether the increment of land value is earned or unearned. He has confined his citations mainly to those who have squarely asserted the usefulness of private property in land as a social institution.

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*The Tariff Problem in China.* By CHIN CHU. Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, Vol. LXXII, No. 2. (New York: Longmans Green and Company. 1916. Pp. 192. \$1.50.)

The fiscal system of China exhibits the somewhat striking peculiarity of being, in certain of its chief elements, designed by the foreigners, who are its real authors, to favor the foreigner at a sacrifice of Chinese interests. This sacrifice has the widest scope,

being disastrous to the whole life of China in its material, intellectual, political, and moral aspects, without even the merit of benefiting the foreigner, upon whose commercial interests in China it reacts almost as disastrously.

China is deprived of revenue desperately needed, by the maintenance, through treaties, of duties on exports and imports extremely low, nominally 5 per cent (without distinction between necessities and luxuries, raw materials and finished products), and on the whole much less than 5 per cent as a result of price changes through some decades. British, French, Russians, and Japanese have extorted a further reduction at certain frontiers. Thus it comes about that in 1911, for example, the total revenue from import duties amounted only to \$8,000,000 or \$9,000,000 (U. S. gold). As Mr. Chu wisely remarks, the aim of China's tariff is neither protection nor revenue but only the receipt of revenue sufficient to pay part of her obligations to foreign creditors. Treaties with foreign powers, extorted by military force, have further brought it about that, on goods transported from place to place within Chinese territory, the foreigner is much less heavily taxed than his Chinese rival. By a similar singular discrimination foreigners are permitted to carry on manufacture or trade at certain designated places with approximate or entire exemption from the taxes to which the native man of business is subject.

The inability of the Chinese government to make use of what is in other countries a chief source of revenue has been a principal contributing cause of the poverty which defeats or impedes all projects of reform. As a result, in large part, of treaties extorted by military force and preventing the imposition of proper taxes it is impossible to abolish other harmful taxation (especially the inland duties harmful to trade), since no revenue from any source can be spared; or to reform the judiciary and develop the systems of education and transportation, since these improvements are expensive; or to make honesty in the civil service practicable by paying adequate salaries. By this sacrifice of China's welfare the foreigner attains whatever commercial advantage may be expected to result from a system which cripples the government and stifles the economic growth of a customer nation.

Dr. Chu's historical and critical discussion of this matter is eminently fair, with due acknowledgment of China's share of fault, but it is also keen and enlightening. His argument for freedom of trade in China is especially striking—to the effect that the

rather dubious reasons for protection elsewhere have even less force in China; since the economic revolution there is a change in the nature of consumption, in contrast with the European and American revolution in productive methods. Free importation would permit the desirable development of new wants.

It may be thought that Dr. Chu is needlessly concerned about the "unfavorable" balance of China's trade. The excess of imports is explainable, like the same phenomenon in other countries, by facts which no system of duties would substantially affect. The book is good enough to deserve a full index and a bibliography would add to its great value.

A. P. WINSTON.

#### NEW BOOKS

- BROWN, J. R. *A plain talk on taxation*. (New York: Manhattan Single Tax Club. 1916.)
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- DAUDÉ, B. *Le protectionnisme et l'avenir économique de la France*. (Paris: Giard & Brière. 1916.)
- GUEVARA, L. *Towards reorganisation of international finance*. (Bradford, Eng.: Privately printed. 1916. Pp. 85.)
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- LYONS, T. E. *On increasing public expenditures and the cause. Is there a remedy? Delivered before a meeting of assessors of incomes at Madison, Wis., Feb. 10, 1916*. (Pp. 19.)
- MATSCHECK, W. *Report of a survey made for the Milwaukee Tax-payers' League*. (Madison: Milwaukee County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy. 1916. Pp. 73.)
- SALERNO, G. R. *Scienza delle finanze*. (Florence: Barbera. 1916. 2.50 l.)
- SNELLING, W. E. *Excess profits and excess mineral rights duty. With regulations of the commissioners of inland revenue and the provisions of the income tax acts*. (London: Inland Revenue Dept. 1916. Pp. 73. 6d.)
- SYDENSTRICKER, E. *A brief history of taxation in Virginia*. (Richmond: Legislative Reference Bureau of Virginia. 1915. Pp. 66.)